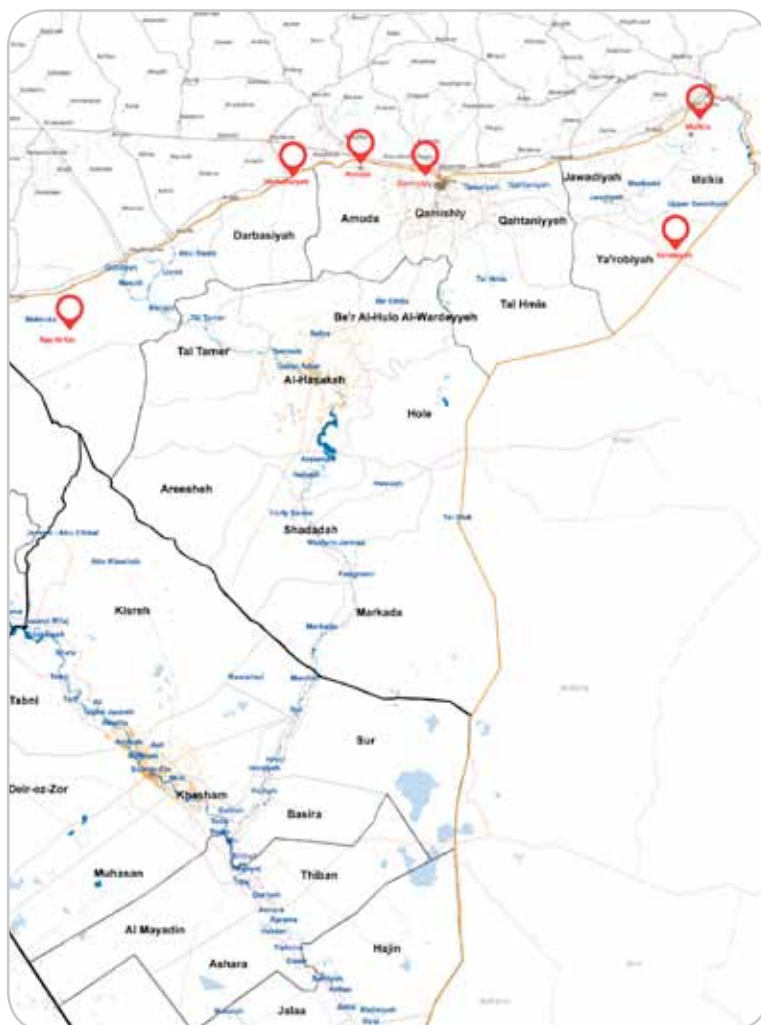


UNHCR Responds To Mass Displacement in Hassakeh

Between 25 - 30 June fierce fighting in Hassakeh led to the displacement of an estimated 120,000 people from Hassakeh city. UNHCR is leading the process of identification of IDPs from Hassakeh city through its network of volunteers and partners in five locations in Qamishly. UNHCR is training partners to conduct identification in various locations, collecting data on a daily basis and providing regular updates about the ongoing identification in order to avoid duplications in the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Access for humanitarian workers to Hassakeh City remains restricted due to the prevailing security situation, however despite this UNHCR, through its volunteers and partners have identified nearly **50,000** IDPs in the northern districts of the Hassakeh governorate, including Qamishly, Derbasia, Amuda, Yaroubia, Ras Al Ein and Malkia.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Mass Displacement in Hassakeh – UNHCR Responds
- Syrian Refugee Number Reaches Four Million
- Protection Capacity Building in Damascus
- Empowerment in Lattakia



“This is the biggest refugee population from a single conflict in a generation. It is a population that needs the support of the world but is instead living in dire conditions and sinking deeper into poverty,”

UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres.

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Since the beginning of the crisis UNHCR has continued to swiftly respond to urgent CRI needs, with particular focus on IDPs in shelters and public areas (parks).

So far, UNHCR has supported nearly **8,000** IDPs with Core Relief Items, mostly in Qamishly but also in Amuda and Derbasia. In addition, UNHCR has appealed to the authorities to open the Nusaybeen border with Turkey in order to import CRIs for **25,000** people. As well as this, UNHCR continues to advocate with the authorities for the opening of schools or public buildings in Qamishly City to be used as collective shelters. While no official collective shelters have yet been opened, two shelters are currently being used in Amuda with a new camp opened by the local administration in Tal Aswad village (12 km southwest of Malkia). As of 5 July, 900 displaced individuals had moved to this camp. UNHCR has so far provided 102 tents, in addition to initiating a fumigation campaign in the camp, as part of an insect and reptile eradication response.

UNHCR response shall continue to ensure that the most vulnerable, not only in Hassakeh, but throughout Syria, are reached.



UNHCR identifies IDPs in parks in the northern outskirts of Hassakeh



CRI distribution in Qamishly

Where there is a will there is a way...The Story of Um Ali

On a recent monitoring visit to Lattakia, UNHCR met Um Ali, a strong and determined woman who, owing to the violent conflict, left her home in a small village in the north of the Lattakia governorate. Um Ali is now resident along with her husband and five children in the UNHCR supported Kirsana shelter.

Despite the stress of the family's displacement trauma, Um Ali refused to yield to the despair, instead approaching a local landowner with a business proposal in order to improve the lives of her children. Herself and her husband now grow crops such as beans, corn, tomatoes and cucumbers on the land and take 50% of the profits, which is making a big difference to the family's standard of living. During the visit she thanked UNHCR for its support and encouraged other women in the shelter to work to achieve their dreams.



UNHCR staff with Um Ali in her room in Kirsana Shelter
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Capacity Building for Reporting in Damascus

On 24 June UNHCR in Damascus organized a one-day workshop on general reporting skills, protection reporting and information management. All UNHCR partners working in protection, legal aid and community services were invited to participate and thirteen agencies operating in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Hama, Homs, Tartous and Aleppo sent their reporting officers and protection focal points to attend. The majority of agencies that participated in the workshop were national protection partners with a number of them having just established partnerships with UNHCR. This training course was thus a great opportunity for them to familiarize themselves with reporting requirements and avail of the specialized training provided by the various UNHCR units. The training included inter-active sessions, group exercises and discussions aimed at finding common understanding of reporting issues and quality protection reporting in particular.

Total Number of Syrian Refugees Exceeds Four Million

The number of refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria to neighbouring countries has now passed four million, confirming the crisis as the world's single largest refugee crisis for almost a quarter of a century. New arrivals in Turkey and updated data from the Turkish authorities on refugees already in that country have taken the total number of Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries to more than 4,013,000 people. The figure of four million comprises 1,805,255 Syrian refugees in Turkey, 249,726 in Iraq, 629,128 in Jordan, 132,375 in Egypt, 1,172,753 in Lebanon, and 24,055 elsewhere in North



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Africa. Not included, are more than 270,000 asylum applications by Syrians in Europe, and thousands of others resettled from the region elsewhere. An additional 7.6 million people are displaced inside Syria - many of them in difficult circumstances and in locations that are difficult to reach.

Tragically, and with no end in sight to Syria's war, now in its fifth year, the crisis is intensifying and the number of refugees are rising. The four million milestone comes barely 10 months since the total of three million was reached. At current rates, UNHCR expects the figure to reach around 4.27 million by the end of 2015. Funding of the Syria refugee situation has become an equally pressing problem. For 2015 as a whole, UNHCR and partners appealed for US\$5.5 billion. However, as of late June, only around a quarter of the humanitarian funds requested have been received. This means refugees face tough new cuts in food aid, and struggle to afford lifesaving health services or send their children to school.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres who made a further appeal for assistance to the international community said ***"We cannot afford to let them and the communities hosting them slide further into desperation."***

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These are the 2013 and 2014 donors for the Syria situation

For more information , please contact:

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